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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/756,427 | 01/08/2001 | Koichi Hayakawa | 112857-247 | 5517 |
| 29175 | 7590 | 06/19/2006 | | EXAMINER |
| BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC | | | | SMITH, TRACI L |
| P. O. BOX 1135 | | | | |
| CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | | 3629 |

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/756,427 | HAYAKAWA, KOICHI | |
| | Examiner Traci L. Smith | Art Unit 3629 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to papers filed on March 29, 2006.

Claims 1, 14-16 and 24-25 have been amended.

Claims 1-25 are pending.

Claims 1-25 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,321,983 Katayanagi et al. Method for managing Life Cycles and System for the same. Hereinafter referred to as Katayanagi.

3. As to claims 1, 14-16, and 24-25 Katayanagi teaches a system method and apparatus for reading and writing product history information; specifically repair information. A storage means for the product information and a means for updating product information(C. 3 l. 43-47, 50-51 and C. 4 l. 23-28). **Katayanagi teaches a tag that can be a card(Guarantee card)(C. 3 l. 48-49) that contains a chip(guarantee card FCM) which is used for writing and reading information(C. 3 l. 50-51)**

4. As to claims 2-3 and 17-18 Katayanagi teaches a processing information over a network(C.4 l. 6-8)
5. As to claim 4 Katayanagi teaches product history storage read from the system.(C. 7 l. 34-37).
6. As to claims 5 and 19 Katayanagi teaches a reading a product ID number and storing information with product ID number.(C. 7 l. 50-55).
7. As to claim 6 Katayanagi teaches reading product history information based on ID number(C. 5 l. 22-25).
8. As to claims 7-8 and 20 Katayanagi teaches reading/writing and displaying product history information(c. 12 l. 52-54& l. 59-63).
9. As to claims 9 and 21 Katayanagi teaches acquiring product information once a communication connection has been established.(C. 12 l. 31-36).
10. As to claims 10-11 Katayanagi teaches writing information for a product "Life Cycle" which implies maintaining all events that have occurred concerning that product(C. 10 l. 10-15).
11. As to claims 12 and 22 Katayanagi teaches purchase information with retailer registration code (C.4 l. 46-47) and retailer address(C. 9 l. 45-49).
12. As to claims 13 and 23 Katayanagi teaches several types of repair information(C. 8 l. 16-18).

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments filed February 23, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

14. Applicant argues amended limitations of "guarantee card function component module" and guarantee card distinguish the claims over the prior art. However, the examiner disagrees and has address the limitations above the prior art rejections.

15. The examiner notes that applicants use of the guarantee card FCM is claimed in broad terms. The FCM describe in the specification as merely states that it represents the function of the information being access. Applicant fails to set forth a specific definition or structure for the FCM, therefore, when given it's broadest reasonable interpretation the examiner maintains the prior art teaches a module with functions to access the information regarding the device. The tag according to Katayanagi, as pointed out by the applicant, can be an IC card, optomagnetic recording medium, a barcode label or the like. Therefore Katayangai teaches an equivalent limitation which performs the same function claimed by the instant applicant.

16. As to applicants arguments that Katayanagi discloses the use of an "external database", the examiner maintains the response that was introduced in the final rejection dated January 13, 2006. The examiner noted that as applicant again claimed a storage means in a broad sense they do not preclude the database/storage being an external database. The storage means is "with" an information processing apparatus not claimed to be housed within the apparatus.

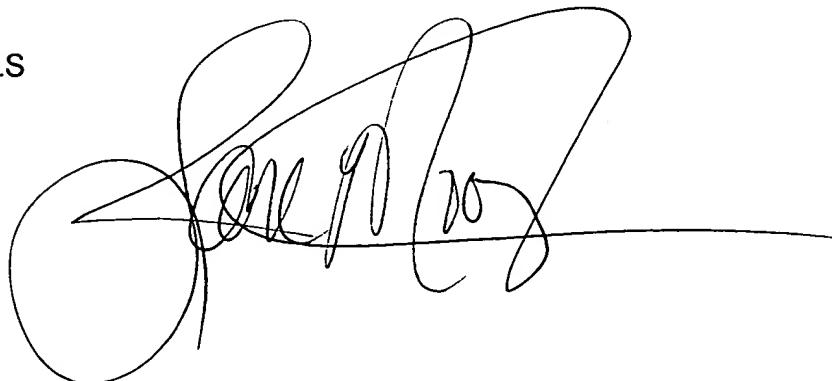
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Traci L. Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-6809. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TLS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Traci L. Smith". It is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right at the end.